

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided on April 8, 2005 and the acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statements by return of the Form PTO-1449. Applicant also acknowledges with appreciation the acknowledgement of Applicant's Claim of Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1, 5, 7, and 8 will have been amended. Thus, claims 1-11 are currently pending. Further, Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended to clarify the nature of the present invention, and claims 5, 7, and 8 have been amended to place them in better form for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

On page 2 of the Official Action, the Examiner asserted that claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over OUCHI (US 6,767,349) in view of RYDELL (US 5,035,696).

Claim 1, as presently amended, includes, inter alia, "..., *said insulating tube having a pair of generally circular guide channels extending over the length thereof;...a pair of conductive wires, each wire passed through a different one of said pair of guide channels...*"

Initially, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 1 pointing out several differences between the present invention and the prior art. Applicant notes that the Examiner has indicated that OUCHI fails to disclose two channels in the insulating tube for an endoscope. Furthermore, RYDELL merely discloses a pair of semilunar

channels in a flexible tube for an endoscope. Currently amended claim 1 now clearly recites the shape of guide channels as "generally circular." Additionally, it is noted that the circular shape of the guide channel assists the wires that are provided in the channels to reciprocate smoothly in the channels. Further, compared with semilunar channels described in RYDELL, employing circular channels in the flexible tube of the present invention formations of an external diameter of the insulating tube to have a smaller size.

Thus, Applicant notes that the present invention is totally different from prior art applied by the Examiner. Further, in view of the above differences, even assuming, arguendo, that the combination of the teachings of OUCHI and RYDELL is proper, such combination would not result in Applicant's claimed invention as presently recited in claim 1. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claim 1 and provide an early indication of the allowance thereof.

Applicant also submits that dependant claims 2-11 are at least patentable due to their dependency from claim 1 for the reasons noted above.

Further, Applicant notes that claims 6 and 9 include features that the Examiner may have overlooked. In particular, claim 6 recites, inter alia, " *...each of said guide channels has an inner diameter slightly larger than an outer diameter of said conductive wire ...*" which is depicted in Fig. 4 of the present application (see reference numerals 108 and 120). Also, claim 9 recites, inter alia, " *...an insulating space supported by said pair of pins...*" which is depicted in Fig. 2 (see reference numeral 140). The Examiner is respectfully requested to additionally consider these features.

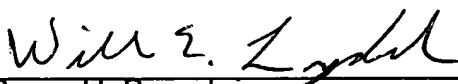
For the above noted reasons, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1-11 are no longer proper. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection, and provide an early indication of the allowability of claims 1-11.


SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendments, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that this has now been done.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Satoshi KIDOOKA


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027


William E. Lyddane
Reg. No. 41,568

July 8, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191